

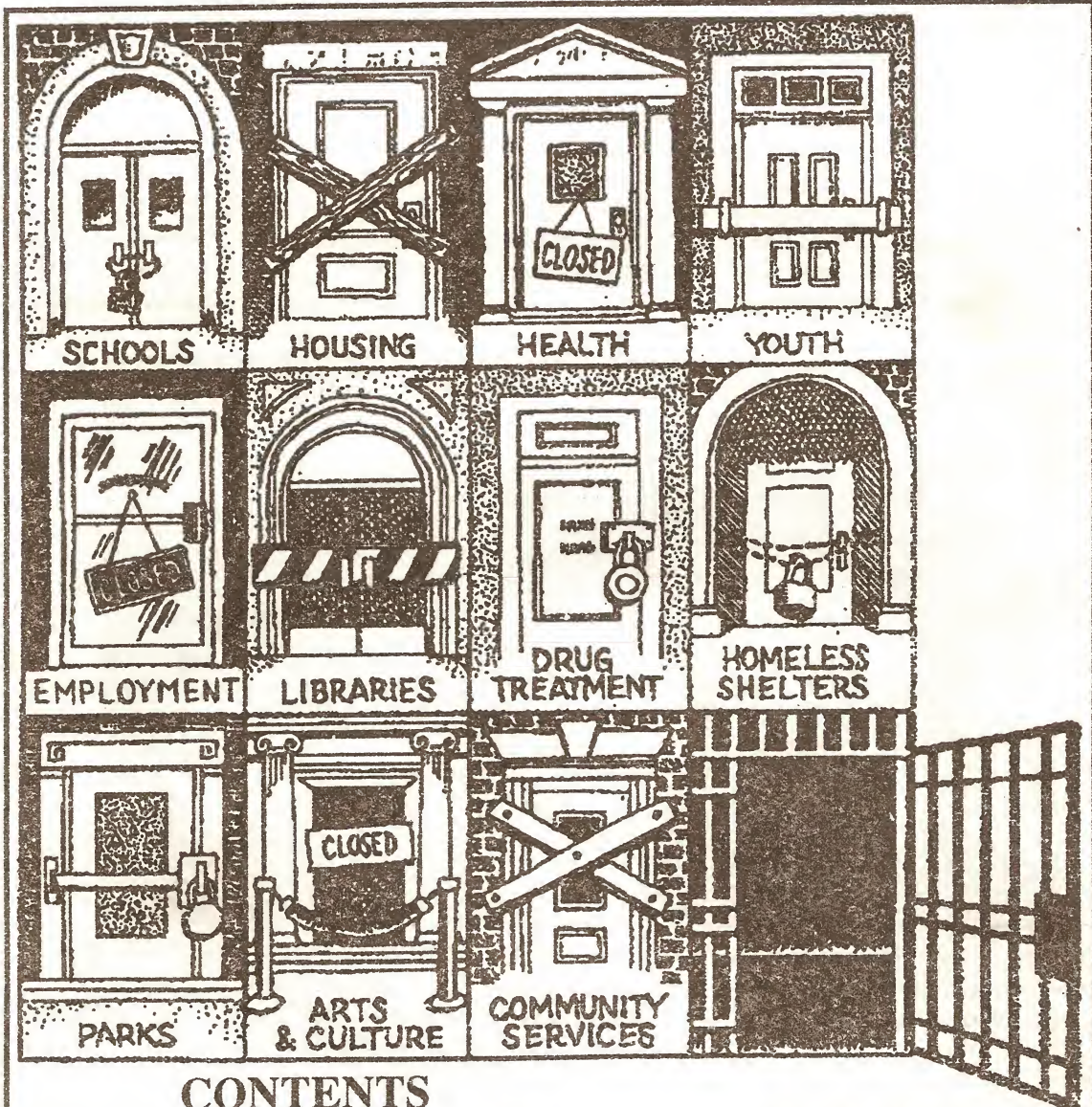
# ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS BULLETIN

Nº 5

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FREE TO PRISONERS



## CONTENTS

Kiranjit Ahluwalia -

Page 2

Operation Spanner -

Page 3

Orville Blackwood -

Page 4

Norman Laws -

Page 6

John Perotti -

Page 9

Mohawk Victory -

Page 12

SUPPORTING CLASS STRUGGLE PRISONERS



# KIRANJIT FREED!

As reported in *Bulletin No 2*, **Kiranjit Ahluwalia** was imprisoned for life in 1989 for murdering her husband, Deepak, by pouring petrol over him and setting him alight. Kiranjit was one of many women who have suffered years of systematic abuse from their husbands - in her case she endured it for 10 years. She had spent more than three years in prison and in July the Court of Appeal overturned the original conviction and recommended a retrial. However, in court on the 25th September, the prosecution accepted psychiatric reports saying that at the time she set fire to her husband, she was suffering from mental illness (also referred to as "battered wife syndrome") and thus it was a case of diminished responsibility. Mr Justice Hobhouse then ordered her immediate release.

Kiranjit suffered from her husband both physically and mentally. Family and friends had seen the scars and bruises, but in her Asian community marital break-up was regarded as shameful and so she endured the beatings. She had tried to commit suicide twice; she had sought court orders to keep Deepak away. She had been beaten with the buckle ends of belts; been raped; had handfuls of hair ripped out; been cut; he tried to run her over and threw her down the stairs. He once held a screwdriver to her eyes and threatened to gouge them out. She was beaten whilst 8 months pregnant. She finally snapped. Speaking from prison before her release she said: "It all became too much that night. He had made me a physical and mental wreck. I saw him sleeping and thought 'how can he sleep when he has done this to me?' I lost it. I never meant to kill him. I just wanted to cause him pain, like he caused me. I thought if I hurt his feet, he wouldn't be able to come after me again. I never thought he would die."



Kiranjit is not the only woman to be imprisoned for murder after years of provocation from violent partners. Sara Thornton is another example, although in her case (so far) the Court of Appeal has refused to take into account battered wife syndrome. However, it is possible that the attitude of the courts is "softening" towards battered wives. But how much longer will it take before the likes of Sara Thornton and others receive the "justice" they deserve? And of course, the attitude of the courts in some ways reflects the attitude of society - it is time that battered women were taken seriously and the responsibilities of us all come into this. If Kiranjit's family had acted sooner instead of leaving her to face the torture alone, maybe she wouldn't have had to spend any time in prison at all.

For further information, or to send letters of congratulation/support to Kiranjit, write c/o *Southall Black Sisters*, 52 Norwood Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4DW.

**STOP PRESS:** 29/9/92 Sara Thornton and 28 other women were reported to be on hungerstrike in Bulwood Hall Women's Prison, apparently over food and conditions. No more details at present.

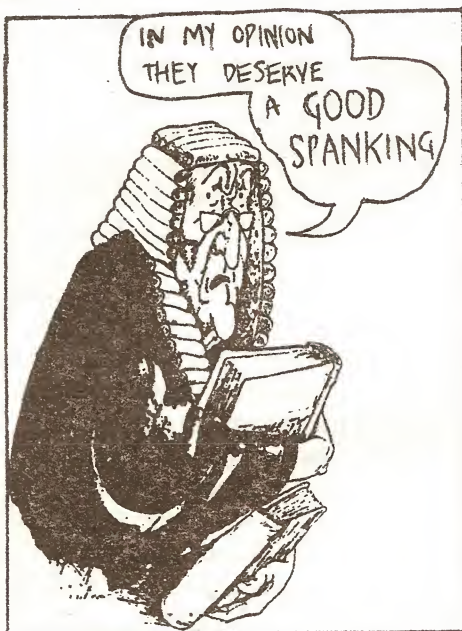


## COMMENT

## Spanner in the Works

*"Now is the time to demand.....the right to walk down the street handcuffed to our lover."*

In 1991, 16 gay men were convicted in court for assault charges relating to consenting to gay sado-masochistic sex. Several were sent to prison. It followed a lengthy police investigation - "Operation Spanner" - into what was described as a "ring" of gay men who were into SM. That all involved were fully consenting was considered irrelevant to the case. Judge Rant (no kidding!) said that "the courts must draw the line between what is acceptable in a civilised society and what is not".

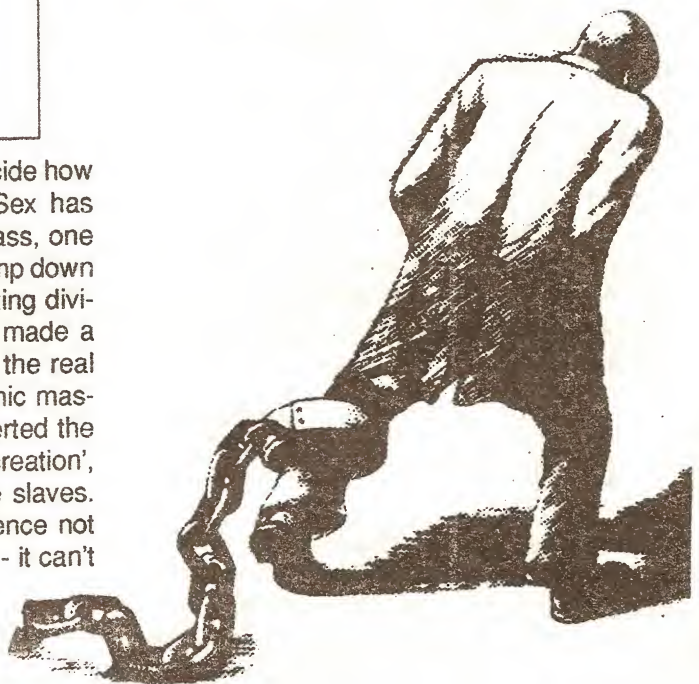


Yet once again the powers that be decide how we should have sex and who with. Sex has always been an issue for the ruling class, one where they have constantly tried to clamp down on 'deviants'. This is partly about creating divisions - a 'deviant' or 'pervert' can be made a convenient scapegoat to distract from the real creators of our problems - our economic masters. Partly, gay sex has always subverted the religious/political ideal of 'sex for procreation', the creation of new peasants or wage slaves. Partly sex itself is a wonderful experience not totally under the control of our bosses - it can't always be bought and sold. (Before you write off, these are only a tiny fraction of the many reasons for anti-gay feeling!)

With Operation Spanner, the court took a clever line. The gay community was divided on SM sex. A lot of people see SM sex as dirty and twisted. What is at issue here is that people have been sent to prison for consenting to acts of sex. Whether you want to be involved in SM sex yourself or not is irrelevant. To thousands of people it is part of their sexual relationships and the state is cracking down on it. The sickness of bourgeois society is at its worst when it locks people up for no more than exploring their bodies and relationships in their own way, needing no ones permission.

The "Spanner" mens' appeal was dismissed in the Court of Appeal by Lord Lane earlier this year, although this infamous bastard did reduce their sentences. Five of them are still inside, however. They are appealing to the House of Lords, the hearing is on the First of December. An SM Support Group, the "Countdown on Spanner Campaign" is organising actions and protests around this issue. It is vital that these prisoners should be given support. The fight to control our own sex lives is part of the daily struggle to run our own lives.

**"Countdown on Spanner": 69 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP. Send a SAE.**





# ORVILLE BLACKWOOD

Orville Blackwood was an Afro-Caribbean man from Brixton who died in Broadmoor High Security Hospital on the 28th August 1991. He was originally sent to prison in 1986 for 4 years for robbing £24 from a betting shop with a toy gun. At the time, he was suffering from depression due to constant hassles with police amongst other things. During his sentence, the prison authorities decided that he should be placed in a mental hospital and he was sent to one. However, he had a run-in with a nurse there who took against him and he was dragged off by 14 riot police who beat him up. He was then sectioned to Broadmoor. His mother and family were refused access during his first weeks there.

Orville had finished his original sentence and was awaiting a 'tribunal' decision on whether he should be released or not. It was planned to release him into the community and preparations were underway for this. On 28th August 1991, 13 days before the tribunal, Orville died in Broadmoor. The official version of his death is that he refused to go to "Occupational Therapy" which is a code name for cheap labour. It isn't compulsory and Orville should have been allowed to go to his "room". Instead he was accused of inciting others not to go, and was taken to "seclusion". At this time he was calm. He was held in seclusion for much of the day until a doctor and at least 9 nurses entered the cell and injected him with 2 drugs, 150mg of each. These drugs are not normally given together and it amounted to 3 times the normal dose. The drugs were also injected intravenously (ie. straight into the vein) and not intramuscularly, as they should have been. (This may have led to a heart attack). He was then beaten up, stripped and left alone in the cell. Within 3 minutes, he was dead.

The inquest into his death recorded a verdict of accidental death.

## ORVILLE BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Orville's mother, Clara Buckley and his family and friends, set up the Orville Blackwood Community Campaign in March '92. It came out of Mrs. Buckley's efforts to find out exactly what happened to her son. The campaign aims to for a public inquiry into deaths at Broadmoor, a judicial review into Orville's death and to mobilise

community support for people in the 'Mental Health' system.

## CONFERENCE: MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM GONE MAD!

The Orville Blackwood Community Campaign held a conference on the 19th September 1992, to get people together to find practical ways to forward their aims. It was attended by about 150 people, including black community activists, past inmates of the 'mental health system' and family friends. The atmosphere was very positive, concentrating on racism in Mental Institutions and psychiatric attitudes to black people. A speaker from Black History for Action put racism in Mental Institutions into its historical context. Scientists have attempted for the last 500 years to show that black peoples' brains are "smaller" and so they must be "subnormal". This finds its latest expression in a 1988 British Journal of Psychiatry Report that Afro-Caribbeans are more likely to be "schizophrenic". There is a widespread suspicion that schizophrenia is the psychiatrists' word for what they can't or won't understand, or that it is used to control "difficult" people.

Generally it was felt that the Mental Health system, including the special hospitals such as Broadmoor, Ashworth and Rampton are used as a form of social control over elements in society that are seen as a threat. Orville Blackwood was viewed as a threat because he was black. It was also felt by the conference that there needs to be more community support for people under pressure or who have 'mental problems' to prevent them being sucked into the murderous state mental hospital system.

## WE'RE NOT MAD, WE'RE ANGRY

In general, mental hospitals are part of the state apparatus for keeping control over 'dangerous' elements in society. Many of those imprisoned in maximum security hospitals have come from the prison system and are often stropky individuals who fall foul of the prison authorities or those who have 'mental problems' diagnosed after being locked up.

*Continued following page*



## ORVILLE BLACKWOOD CONTINUED.

(This isn't to say, of course, that there aren't people with genuine mental problems in our society who need help). But 25% of those in the mental health system are black, hugely out of proportion to the percentage in the population generally.

Of course, with many people, supposed mental illnesses come about due to the stresses of our lifestyles whereby we are pushed to the limits according to the needs of capital and the rich. Deprivations, abuse, stress, can all lead to depression and breakdowns. However, psychiatry ignores this and tries to place the emphasis on "genetic defects". People who refuse to fit into stereotypical roles are also pressurised and often sectioned. Once inside these institutions, there is little pretence of a cure. Drug abuse against inmates is rife - 25% of the drugs used in the NHS are used in the mental health system. People are drugged up so they can't resist - often leaving permanent damage. ECT is also used as a form of control, as well as isolation cells, strip cells and beatings. As well as the institutional racism within the system, it recently came to light in the investigation into Rampton Hospital that many of the hospital staff were members of the fascist British National Party.

The mental health system is used to maintain the class system and it uses every method including racism and outright murder to control those forced into it. Places like Broadmoor are

concentration camps which must be closed down. It is vital that not only should we establish links with inmates, but that we develop community support for people in danger of being sent to such death camps. In the end we have to protect our own against the true 'madness' of a system that oppresses and exploits us, and then locks us up and kills us.

### CONTACTS:

#### **ORVILLE BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN**

c/o New Testament Assembly  
7 Beechcroft Road  
London SW17

#### **LONDON ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL HEALTH ACTION**

c/o Brixton Community Sanctuary  
St Vincents Centre  
Talmar Road  
Brixton  
London SW2

Tel: 071 924 0913

*(Working against the mental health system as a form of social control).*

#### **CAMPAIGN AGAINST PSYCHIATRIC OPPRESSION**

28a Edgar House  
Kingsmead Estate  
Homerton Road  
London E9

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## **John Kamara Update - The Cops Tie Themselves in Knots**

In the last *Bulletin* we ran an article on **John Kamara** who was framed in 1981 for the murder of a shop manager in Liverpool, during a robbery. For the last five years, Merseyside Police have been conducting an internal police inquiry into his case. While they have been investigating it, they have blamed delays on "non-cooperation" from witnesses. However, at least one witness was "advised" not to cooperate by police officers interviewing him for the inquiry! Unfortunately for the cops, this interview was taped by the interviewee and a copy sent to his MP!

The Home Office have also "discovered" that along with dubious statements alleging John had boasted of the murder while on remand, there was also ID evidence. This comprised of a woman who positively identified John from seeing the back of his head only. She had also been found guilty of perjury in another trial. All this adds up to a man serving a life sentence for a murder he took no part in.

Write to John: **John Kamara H10109, HMP Wakefield, Love Lane, Wakefield WF2 9AG.**  
Or write to the Home Office and give them some stick.

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## Colchester 16 Update

The Colchester 16 were had up after being involved in defending an anti poll tax demo in Colchester in March '90, from a police attack. Many of them were accused of Riot (Section 1, Public Order Act). In the first trial, 4 were acquitted, and 2 found guilty of Riot and 2 found guilty of Violent Disorder. These 4 had their appeal on 14th August, which was rejected, but the sentences were reduced so that now **Christine Hammett, Andy Hester** and **Patrick Tyler** are all out. **Terry Frost** had his sentence reduced to 15 months but is still inside.

Meanwhile the second trial ended on the 21st July with four more acquittals and 4 imprisonments.

**Graham Mann:** Found Guilty of Riot. 18 months. Open Wing, Norwich prison.

**Dean Mackie:** Acquitted of Riot, Guilty Violent Disorder. 19 months. North Wing, Norwich prison.

**Paul Gladwell:** Violent Disorder. 14 months. HMYOI Norwich.

**Damian Tomlinson:** Violent Disorder, 19 months. Open Wing, Norwich prison.

Norwich prison and HMYOI (Youth Custody) are both at: Knox Road, Norwich NR14LU.

These prisoners need letters of support. In the current situation with the decline of the Poll Tax

Movement, poll tax prisoners are more isolated than they were a year ago. It is important that they shouldn't be forgotten and the fight against the poll tax carried on, on all fronts.

### NORMAN LAWS

Norman Laws, the 72 year old revolutionary sent to prison for 3 months for non-payment of the poll tax last year, was imprisoned again on the 2nd August this year for 2 months, for continuing to refuse to pay. He refused any compromise with the authorities over the tax. He isn't looking for fame or hero-worship, but feels that he can't have any truck with this tax imposed on his class. He was released on the 2nd October. We wish him all the best.

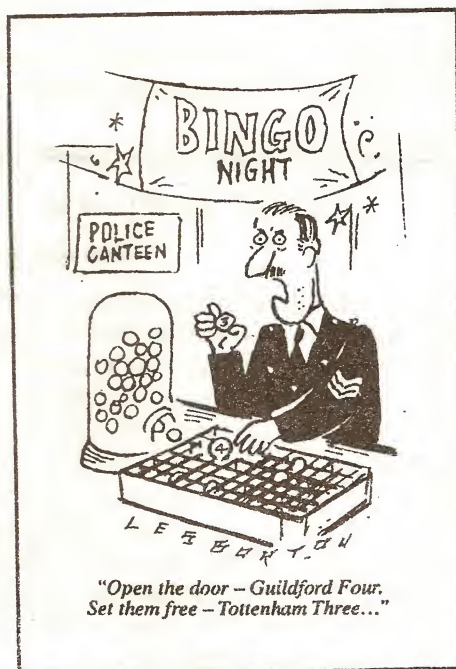
For up-to-date information on Poll Tax Prisoners contact:

**National Poll Tax Prisoners Support Network**  
506 Brixton Road  
London SW9

Tel: 071 738 7586 (24hr answerphone). Office open daily.

## COMMUNITY POLICING IN MANCHESTER

The **Greater Manchester police** scored a spectacular own-goal recently, in true public-spirited style. A "police awareness day" for black teenagers was arranged in the Moss Side area, to try to encourage more youngsters to become cops. The event was also supported by Moss Side and Hulme Community Development Trust. One of the trust workers, John Samuels, took some leaflets and posters advertising the awareness day to the Moss Side shopping centre. Unfortunately for him, he arrived there just as Greater Manchesters Finest decided to do a drugs raid on a betting shop. So Mr. Samuels was in the wrong place at the wrong time and the wrong colour. He was promptly assaulted, arrested and strip-searched and then released without so much as an apology. Needless to say, the awareness day was cancelled straight away. So much for "working with the community", eh?





## Warning - Solicitors Can Seriously Damage Your Health

Inevitably in this society many people come up against the law. In many cases this is for breaking the rules to survive, or for things we didn't do, or for standing up to our bosses. If we get caught, we face the choice of pleading guilty or fighting the case.

To fight the case most people use barristers and solicitors. You can defend yourself, but because of all the legal jargon and the fact that the judge and the prosecution work together against you, a solicitor can seem like the best option. A good solicitor or barrister should be able to "get you off".

But we must be wary of these people. They are an integral part of the legal system and are usually middle class, often part of the same social networks as the prosecution and judges and will often drink in the same clubs, etc. Some barristers do both defence and prosecution - to them it's all a JOB, a CAREER. No matter how many years we might be looking at, to them it's still something they can walk away from. We can't expect them to put heart and soul into our cases - especially if we're not rich. (Bear in mind that solicitors only get paid a quarter in legal aid cases of what they can charge privately - so legal aid cases tend to be done quickly, to 'get them out of the way' leaving time for the money-spinning ones. Some solicitors won't touch legal aid cases at all.)

There are many cases where solicitors and



barristers have screwed people and left them serving many years, despite promises to the contrary. We get the raw end. We get trainee solicitors who don't know their arse from their elbow. We get left to rot in remand represented by barristers who don't know our cases, don't use all our arguments. Think of Robert Taylor who

might have got off if all the evidence of police corruption had been used at his trial. Or Robert Ward who was framed by police, who had 5 alibi witnesses but his barrister didn't use them in court. Or the anti-fascist activist who got a lift to court with his barrister who told him she thought he was guilty and deserved to go down. (He didn't, no thanks to her). Barristers who persuade us to plead guilty: they won't be the ones doing time!

These people are parasites. The legal system creates a need for them and they feed off it. There are some exceptions to this, particular firms that defend 'political' cases and may stick their necks out occasionally. But the system is the system; in the long term we should be creating our own justice without the need of the courts. But if you have to appear in court, there are a few points to remember:

If you are arrested, you have the right to see a solicitor. Don't believe anything else the cops may tell you, this is your right - **USE IT!**

\*

If you are arrested, exercise your right to silence until you have seen a solicitor. **DON'T SAY ANYTHING.**

\*

Try not to use the duty solicitor (often based at the cop shop), but if all else fails, this is better than nothing.

\*

Try to find a good solicitor in your area and memorise their number.

\*

Always be in control when dealing with your solicitor - you are employing them. Make it clear what you want them to do and make sure they stick to it. **DON'T BE INTIMIDATED.**

\*

**DON'T PLEAD GUILTY** - unless you want to.

\*

If you are dissatisfied with your solicitor, you have the right to change, but bear in mind that it often takes time to find a new one, and to familiarise with your case etc. Courts often don't leave much time.

\*

**REMEMBER** - they may have your future in their hands. Make sure you control it as much as you can.

*Release (Criminal, Legal & Drugs Service), 169 Commercial St, London E1. Tel: 071-377-5905 - may be able to help.*



## PRISONER UPDATES

### Freed!:

**Glen Lewis:** He was framed up by the West Midlands Serious Crimes Squad for armed robbery - this included his head being covered by a plastic bag to force a "confession". He was granted a retrial earlier this year and finally freed by Nottingham Crown Court on July 23rd. He'd like to thank those who wrote to him and supported him. Good luck to him!

**Robert Hall and Michael Royle:** They were freed by the Court of Appeal also in July. They were framed by the Greater Manchester Police with the aid of a 'supergrass' called George Allen. Michael Royle is still inside, however, serving another sentence which he is also contesting.

**REMEMBER:** for every "framed" prisoner freed on appeal, there are many more inside. Framings serve a purpose: to intimidate and to keep the police/courts looking efficient to the middle class and those who have faith in the system. Framed prisoners must be supported and their cases publicised. This does not necessarily mean that we don't recognise that many "guilty" prisoners are also inside for political reasons and deserve solidarity if they want it, too. While thousands of our friends, relatives, comrades and members of our class rot in the prison system, the real guilty ones go free and carry on manipulating our lives.

Conviction is a group that supports and publicises the cases of framed prisoners. Contact: **Conviction, PO Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF.**

### WINSTON SILCOTT DEFENCE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

On the 17th and 18th of June, Detective Chief Superintendent **Graham Melvin** and **Maxwell Dingle** appeared at Bow St. Magistrates Court answering the charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice. These two were the chief investigation officers in charge of the Broadwater Farm enquiries. The ESDA (electrostatic deposition analysis) test has proved that Winston's "statement" was fabricated.

The Campaign and it's supporters staged a peaceful picket outside the court. The message shouted out was: "Melvin is guilty and justice must be done to vindicate the frame-up against Winston".

You can support the Campaign by urgently writing letters of support outlining your concerns about Winston's conviction to:

Royal Courts of Justice  
Strand  
London WC2

or: Home Office  
Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1H 9AT

The Campaign is totally unfunded and relies on donations. Please send donations and affiliations to:

**Winston Silcott Defence Campaign**  
**Selby Centre, Selby Road, London N17. Tel: 081-365-0448.**

Write to Winston: **Winston Silcott B74053, HMP Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicester LE16 7RP.**





# JOHN PEROTTI - ANOTHER SET UP

For those not familiar with John Perotti's case, he was originally sent to prison for a \$7 robbery when he was 19. Due to John's activities as a "Jailhouse Lawyer" and organising within the prison, he has repeatedly had time added on to his sentence and he remains inside, now in his late 30's. In 1988 he had another 15 years added for supposedly stabbing another prisoner, despite the fact that John was in solitary at the time the attack was supposed to have occurred. The actual attacker confessed to the stabbing during John's "trial" but yet John was still given the additional sentence.

Recently John has been trying to raise money to hire a private investigator into this conviction so he needs all the money he can get. Some money has already been collected but more is needed. Please send any donations to the new defence fund address below.

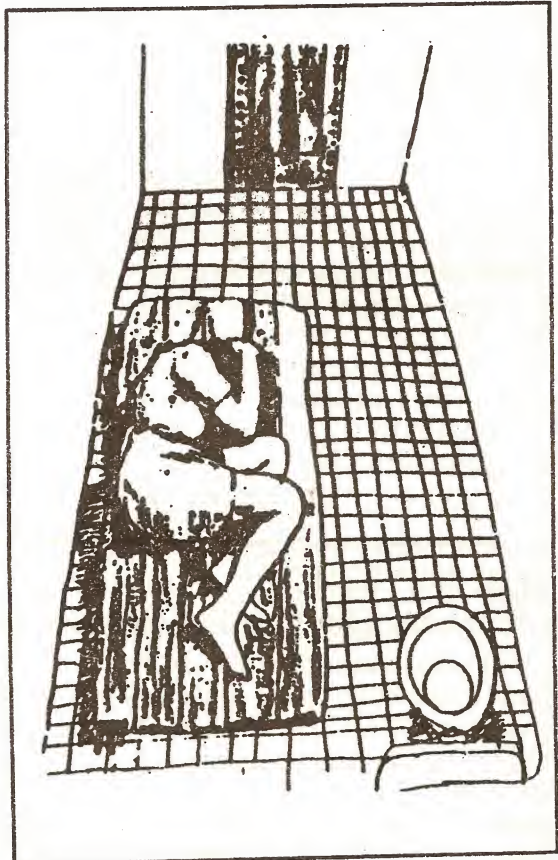
The latest news from John concerns another set-up.

"On the 7th August, Unit Manager Bill Richard, Investigator Tery Knight, State Highway Patrol Fleming, Captain Richard and Sergeant Hanell called an informant named Jerome Evans into their office and told him they would let him out to general population if he set me up - he signed a paper saying he would cooperate with them. They told him to take inside recreation and engage me in a conversation about illegal activities, and they would record it and keep me in Administrative Control (AC), solitary confinement, for it.

He came back in the block, the guard put a roll of toilet paper with a cassette recorder hidden in the middle of it outside my cell, and he tried to engage me in a conversation. I know he's an informant so I don't go for it - plus he looked nervous and kept glancing at the toilet paper. So I pulled the toilet roll in and got hold of the recorder. Then I told the guards I wanted to see a supervisor. They told the guards to get the recorder back - which they did - but then noticed that the tape was missing. So they tore up my cell looking for it - also the bottom range. When they couldn't find it, they confiscated all of my property. They have me in an "observation" cell under closed circuit camera and microphone surveil-

lance. This is where I am now.

*These pigs don't have any reason to keep me in AC so they are trying to manufacture a reason. They won't release my property to me, they tell me administration is still searching it."*



John needs our help. Send letters of protest, asking why John is being kept in AC to:

**The Warden and/or Unit Manager Bill Richard**  
Mansfield Correctional Institution  
Mansfield  
Ohio 44901  
USA

The new defence fund address is:  
**John Perotti Defence Fund**  
c/o 45a Bedford Avenue  
Aberdeen  
Aberdeenshire  
Scotland



## REPORT ON PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

As we wrote in the last *Bulletin*, August 10th has been commemorated since 1976 as a day to remember deaths in prison - either suicides, murders, deaths through neglect or others. This year London ABC joined in the now international day of protest with a demo in Brixton, South London. We handed out hundreds of leaflets in the centre of Brixton, drawing attention to deaths in prison and the class nature of prisons. This attracted some interest as we concentrated on Brixton Prison, which has one of the worst records. This was followed by a semi-march to the prison where an impromptu demo was held - shouting to the prisoners, singing and chanting and making our presence felt. Several prisoners shouted back and banged on the windows. This made it all worthwhile. Despite missing the press (they got the time wrong) and low numbers, it was all worth it. Next year it is planned to work with other prisoner support groups to organise maybe more events in different places.

Some prisoners in Hull Prison's Special Unit also "celebrated" Prisoners Justice Day with a live link-up to the PJD Committee in Toronto,

Canada, who run a radio show as part of their actions around this event. They talked about prison conditions and struggles here in Britain.

Apart from resolving to make this event annual in Britain, it also raised the question of prison pickets. Many of us present had also been involved in regular prison demos for anti poll tax prisoners, which were an important part of solidarity in the struggle to support the many people locked up as a result of the poll tax. It has been suggested that there should be more demos at prisons, obviously carefully thought out to avoid winding up the very people whose situation we are willing to publicise/support. On August 10th we deliberately held the demo after visiting hours had ended to avoid the prison authorities using it as an excuse to shut down visits that day. (This has happened in the past). We would like to hear ideas about demos at prisons, especially from prisoners.

If you are interested in helping organise PJD actions next year, let us know and we will keep in touch with you about it.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### "STOLEN YEARS -Before and After Guildford".

Paul Hill with Ronan Bennett. £4.99

*Stolen Years* is an expose of the police operation surrounding the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings in 1974 and the obstinate corruption of the so-called 'justice' system that convicted Paul Hill, Gerry Conlon, Carole Richardson and Paddy Armstrong; the now famous "Guildford Four". This book is also a lot more besides. It is a personal history of growing up in a working class community in Belfast, child to a 'mixed' marriage in the docks area, against a background of sectarianism but also of great community solidarity. Paul recalls how everyone pilfered from work at the docks but "real crime" was rare in the community. Burglaries, house-breaking and muggings were unheard of, and on the rare occasion that someone was robbed it was a great scandal.

This book is also a powerful account of the experience of imprisonment: the direct brutality from screws and police and anti-Irish racism from screws and prisoners alike. But also the grinding demoralisation of knowing the police knew the Four were not involved in the bombings only 2 years after their convictions and yet they were left having to face 12 more years, of hopes lifted and dashed, just to save a rotten establishment from embarrassment. Hill tells of how he was forced to withdraw from everyone, family and friends, in order to survive and numb the emotional turmoil between loved ones.

As well as the petty discipline system and soul-destroying work of prison routine, *Stolen Years* also documents the courage and resourcefulness of inmates and the ongoing struggle and mutual aid inside prison walls. From the art of hiding tobacco and matches in a cell with apparently no hiding places, to uprisings like the Hull Prison Riot of '76 where prisoners took to the roof, demolishing much of the jail on the way, in protest at a fellow inmate being beaten. This book is a real eye-opener, full of details and aspects of prison life it makes for a rivetting read; at times shocking, but also inspiring in that it tells a very human story of how people find the strength and courage to resist a prison system that is in itself very dehumanising.

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## Letter from Pablo Serrano

**Pablo Serrano** is a Spanish Anarchist who has been in prison since 1984. (See Bulletin No 2). He was found guilty of political murder and given 33 years. He is eligible for parole, but this has been refused him TEN times. He is active in prison struggles and defends the rights of political prisoners. Below is a translation of a letter received earlier this year.

"...There are many problems involved in organising a prisoners support movement along with their (the prisoners) demands, given the dominant values in the mainstream of society, given the crisis at present and given the predominance of neo-liberalism and individualistic isolation. Despite these difficulties, the idea of reaching families, friends, and others of those who have suffered inside is a good one given that any outside solidarity action of whatever humanist nature can help more people become aware of what's going on. If you can manage to coordinate to the point of supporting struggles that take place inside prison and at the same time push



with "expertise" on the legal front, then you have 3 fronts of struggle versus the state and your effectiveness is greater.

Regarding the 29/5/92 (the International Day of Action), I was told by a comrade of the Manchester picket...He told me what happened in a letter...The jokes and singing "A las barricadas" on the picket line, the picket lasting 3 hours.

....The Madrid demonstration on the same day apparently produced a result. ie. 5 CNT comrades were allowed to see a DGIP (Prison Service) functionary to whom my case was explained and a 15-day ultimatum was issued demanding a reply. A month has passed now and I have found nothing out one way or another. This is not a good sign, given all the pressures brought to bear in different places in Spain and above all, those demonstrations that took place abroad - the fact that they are not even processing my case is a clear signal that "the doors are shut" and that they aren't contemplating giving in.

At present, I'm getting a mass of help and solidarity from all over Spain and elsewhere as well. The tokens of help from comrades in exile in France have been particularly special, most of them being over 80. Solidarity has also arrived from the WSA-IWA. You can imagine how good I feel telling the screws about it. Apart from the tension of the outcome of my situation, I feel strong at present and being knocked back (viz. the appeal) would only serve to confirm my Anarchist convictions and help me to develop the links between here and the outside world."

Please send letters and messages of support to:  
**Pablo Serrano Serrano, Prison de Torrero, Av.America 80, 50007 Zarragoza, Spain.**

For further information contact: **Bolton ABC**, c/o Box 8, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1.  
Or contact: **SOL**, Apdo.6119, 50080 Zarragoza, Spain.

### Donations Please!

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## VICTORY FOR THE MOHAWKS!

In 1990, Mohawk barricades were set up in the Municipality of Oka, Canada, to protest against a golf course expansion that was to be on sacred burial ground that is sovereign Mohawk territory. At 6am on July 11th 1990, approximately 500 heavily armed police moved in on the barricades set up by the people of Kanesatake. Kanesatake is one of the seven communities that are part of the Mohawk Nation, which is in turn part of the Iroquois Confederacy known as the Haudenosaunee. The police fired tear gas and live ammunition at the people, but were met with defensive fire from the Mohawk Warriors. Witnesses said the the Mohawks weren't firing directly at the cops - rather above their heads. One police officer was killed - he was shot by other police in crossfire. (No one has been charged). After the police attack, there was a stand-off that lasted 78 days. Needless to say, the media went mad at the news and many Mohawks were subsequently arrested - many of whom were at this recent trial. A defence fund was set up with many local people supporting the Mohawks, with roads and a bridge being blocked during the protests. Of course, at the heart of the dispute lay the issue of sovereignty and naturally the governments of Quebec and Canada were unwilling to recognise that Native Nations have any rights - sovereignty for the Mohawks would pave the way for sovereignty for the rest of the Native Nations in Canada and Quebec.

On July 3rd 1992, 34 Mohawks who had been charged in the Oka crisis were acquitted by a Quebec Superior Court jury after five days of deliberation. In a statement issued by the Mohawks, they said: "The verdict is seen by the Mohawks and their allies as an admission by the jury that the issues involving land and jurisdiction must be addressed, not in the criminal courts, but by negotiation." With the exception of three who were charged with assaulting a police officer and interfering with an arrest, all the accused had been charged with participating in a riot and obstructing the police and the military. In addition, 18 were accused of possession of firearms for a dangerous purpose.

The verdict is a great victory for the Mohawk people and our hearts go out to them. However, the issue of sovereignty has still not been resolved, and with the interests of capitalism clashing so violently with the issue of sovereignty, it is

going to be a long, long, struggle. It has been 500 years already - and with 85% of Quebec under land claim, the capitalists have an awful lot to lose. The Mohawk Nation has been exemplary in their refusal to negotiate as subjects of Canada or Quebec, but as a sovereign nation. Although 34 Mohawks have been acquitted, the struggle must continue. Canadians will have to wake up to the oppressiveness of a system based on colonialism and put energy into fighting this same system. All communities will have to organise to continue the fight as effectively as possible.

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